5: Pollard M-5 (no date) 1921 AE4 Lolo AE4



574 told that fact to his wife. He only got away at last by fixing
484 a date for his return. This date had long gone by, and I suppose the disappointed ladies have one more evidence of the unreliable nature of the male sex. The traveller described the unknown country quite minutely, and refused to budge from his stories in spite of all the ridicule and unbelief we rewarded him with. He said he could show us the way to this paradise if we were willing to go. I am very sorry that other pressing business prevented me from taking up his challenge and going to visit that wonderful country. The unexplored parts of the earth are getting so few that it was a loss that the chance of such a great journey of exploration had perforce to be declined. Possibly there might have been an atom of truth in his yarn. He may have gone wandering off and become the enforced guest in some Buddhist nunnery, where the lady abbess might have told him some tall stories which he believed and later on considerably enlarged. It was interesting to see that when the man told his story he stuck to it in spite of everything and everybody.

574 The inner circle around the fire that listened to all these
293 stories was composed of sixteen men and the one solitary girl
[301] who seemed capable of holding her own with anybody. From the left ears of all the men hung the long ear-rings. Each had his head horn or poke tied up at the left side of the head, and all faces were bright and merry as the fire shone on them. White rows of teeth were constantly visible, and there were smiles all round, which sometimes developed into a hearty laugh or a tremendous roar. Pipes were constantly going, and I noticed, hanging from the necks of many of the men, the
534 touches for their guns. From the necks of some of them also hung a little instrument of brass or bamboo, on which they